

## World Languages: Summer Suggestions

All world language students should expose themselves to their language as much as possible this summer. By doing the following they may be able to curb the usual loss of skills during the summer hiatus:

- Listen, speak, and write your world language whenever possible. Check out the “A&E” on Fridays for international events that may include some language exposure.
- Rent videos in your world language or watch English videos with the subtitles on.
- Watch TV channels that are in your world language, e.g. Telemundo.
- Attend area conversation groups:
  - Meetup.com language groups:  
[www.meetup.com/cities/us/or/portland/#Languages](http://www.meetup.com/cities/us/or/portland/#Languages)
  - French conversation groups [www.afportland.org/local\\_culture.html](http://www.afportland.org/local_culture.html)
  - Spanish conversation groups [www.castalialanguagecenter.com/groups.htm](http://www.castalialanguagecenter.com/groups.htm)
- Practice with a software or audio program, e.g. Berlitz or Rosetta Stone.
- Look for websites or online newspapers in your world language.
  - Spanish: <http://cnnespanol.cnn.com/>, [www.elpais.com/global/](http://www.elpais.com/global/)
  - French: [www.Lemonde.fr](http://www.Lemonde.fr)
  - German: [www.dw-world.de/dw/o,,9077,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/o,,9077,00.html)
- Keep a summer diary in your world language.
- Check out two free online language learning tools: Busuu.com and LiveMocha (available through the Multnomah County website: [www.multcolib.org/](http://www.multcolib.org/))

### Classes to Take:

By junior year students should have completed two years of French, German, Mandarin or Spanish in order to be on track for a full IB diploma or IB certificate in world languages. If needed, consider taking summer classes at PPS, PCC or PSU. Or if you have had one year but need two, consider a summer immersion experience in your world language.

### Suggestions by Language:

#### FRENCH

##### Suggested Reading:

*Le Petit Prince*, *Harry Potter* in French, children’s French books or abridged classics at Powell’s.

### Films to Watch:

- Consult AF Portland to find listings of French film showings, rent from Netflix or borrow from Multnomah County Library.
- Youtube – for French/Francophone music videos and children’s cartoons (Babar/Tchoupi /Barbapapa)

### Culture:

- Go to [www.AFPortland.com](http://www.AFPortland.com) (Alliance Francaise) to find out about French cultural activities: festivals, cinema, readings, guest speakers, French-speaking groups, food, etc. Try to take part in at least one activity this summer to report back next fall.

## GERMAN

Check with the German-American Society (Deutsches Haus at 7901 SE Division, 503-775-1585) and see what activities are happening or what groups you can join, e.g. choirs, sprachgruppen, stammtische. Visit [www.germanamerican.org](http://www.germanamerican.org).

### Suggested Reading:

Powell’s Books has a great selection of German language books. Choose anything in the Children’s or Young Readers’ section.

### Films to Watch:

Check Movie Madness or Netflix for a great selection of German language films. Avoid anything that isn’t rated.

### Classes to Take:

- PCC offers an accelerated first-year course that will greatly increase your success in IB German 7-8.
- The German-American School of Portland sponsors both Kindersommer for 3-6 year olds and World Language Day Camps for grades 2-10. See their website <http://gspdx.org> or call 503-626-9089 for more details.

## MANDARIN CHINESE

### Suggested Reading:

- Chinese Breeze reading series and Tales and Traditions. These are short chapter books for Chinese learners. They come with CDs so you can listen to the books. They are available to purchase at <http://www.cheng-tsui.com>
- Powell’s Books has a section on Chinese books. They have fun books that fit different levels of reading proficiency.

### Classes and Camps:

- Confucius Institute at PSU offers summer non-credit Chinese language and culture courses of different levels. Please check this website for details: <http://oia.pdx.edu>
- 2013 Chinese Bridge Summer Camp: Confucius Institute at PSU is facilitating the Confucius Institute Headquarters in China to accepting applications for the Chinese Bridge Summer Camp. For detailed info about this China study travel opportunity, contact Meiru Liu at [lium@pdx-edu](mailto:lium@pdx-edu). Or call 503-725-9810 or 503-725-8561, 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

### Other opportunities:

- EF Tour organizes annual summer educational trips to China. For detailed info, contact Elizabeth Haus at [Elizabeth.Haus@ef.com](mailto:Elizabeth.Haus@ef.com)
- National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) language program administered by American councils offer studying abroad (China) summer program or long-term academic year program. Please check out this website for detailed info: [exchanges.state.gov/youth/program/nsli.html](http://exchanges.state.gov/youth/program/nsli.html)

### Films to Watch:

活着 To Live

刮痧 Gua Sha Treatment

失恋33天 Lovelorn 33 days

### TV drama series:

北京爱情故事 Beijing Love Story

Happy Chinese

Both the movies and the TV drama series can be found on Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTlmiD17mc0&list=PLdT5MUO4gYEdQBMFtkF5g803FJZOs-s-ip>

### Mandarin news sources/website:

- **BBC News** 中文网 : <http://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/simp>
- **New York Times** 纽约时报中文网
- **Xinhua's Bilingual Zone**
- **VOA News** 中文网: <http://www.voachinese.com>